

TURFGRASS BIOSECURITY IN QUEENSLAND

Biosecurity risk in Queensland can have a long-term effect on the profitability of the turf production facility, the environment and our supply and demand chain. It is the responsibility of the turf producer to ensure their future is protected.

Queensland's Biosecurity Strategy 2009-14 identified the need for a cohesive body of law by a security that is easily accessible to stakeholders and public administrators to ensure a highly responsive Biosecurity system. Currently there are a number of Biosecurity legislative documents within the framework that separates activities through reference to various issues. The objective of a modern Biosecurity system is to identify consistency through one new act modernising Queensland Biosecurity legislated framework.

The Simple Fixes for Common Risks:

People, livestock and products are constantly on the move around the country and the world. This movement opens up new challenges for agriculture but also increases the risks of diseases, pests and weeds on Australian properties. Animal Health Australia and Plant Health Australia jointly manage the "National Farm Biosecurity Program which provides information about farm Biosecurity and the prevention of animal diseases and plant pests on farm. The program encourages producers to identify risks to their livestock and plant products and minimise those risks through mitigation practices.

There are 5 key risk areas;

1. **People Movement:**

People can unintentionally carry diseases, pests and weeds and transfer them without even realising. This means anyone entering your property is a potential risk. Take into account their clothing, boots/shoes and whether they have had recent contact with other livestock or areas of known infestation.

NB: Remember you have the right to refuse entry to anyone who does not wish to comply with your Biosecurity measures.

2. **Product Movement:**

The movement of anything on to, around and off your property increases the risk of transferring diseases, pests and weeds in allowing them to spread. This means that every time you move plant materials, crops, livestock or anything that could harbour diseases, pests or weeds, you should consider the risks involved.



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Also consider whether livestock have been exposed to diseases, feeds that contain weeds/seeds or you are purchasing from a reliable source, etc.

3. **Equipment and Vehicles:**

Equipment and vehicles can carry disease and weed seed laden dirt and faecal matter and can easily distribute them around your property. Vehicles should be kept away from livestock and on farm thoroughfares and parked in one designated area. It is important to maintain an adequate level of equipment hygiene and ensure all vehicles that visit your property clean all parked in the designated area.

4. **Feed and Water:**

There is a high potential for diseases to be carried in feed and water supplies, or weeds, seeds to be distributed in fodder or through water streams and for pests to it access feed suppliers or contaminate water sources or storage areas. Feed should be fit for purpose and stored safely and water sources check regularly to ensure they have not been contaminated.

5. **Pests and Weeds:**

Pests can bring diseases or damage or interfere with plant products and livestock so an effective pest control program is an important part of Biosecurity. A weed control programme should also be considered for the control of weeds, particularly those that are toxic to animals or inhibit farm production.



ACTION:

if you see anything unusual call the Emergency Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881 or visit www.farbiosecurity.com.au The Web site includes information about disease, pests and weed risks, reducing those risks and how to go about it. (Sourced from www.getfarming.com.au)

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